

Application No. 10/729,485
Response dated April 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2006

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An absorbent article defining a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that extends between and connects said front and back waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, an inner surface, an outer surface opposite said inner surface, and a pair of longitudinally opposed end margins and a pair of laterally opposed side margins, said article comprising:

A stretchable outercover;

A stretchable bodyside liner joined to the stretchable outercover in a superposed relation wherein said outercover and said bodyside liner are joined along at least a portion of each of said end margins to provide a front waist seam and a back waist seam and wherein said outercover and said bodyside liner are joined along at least a portion of each of said side margins in said front waist region and said back waist region to provide a pair of side seams in each of said front waist region and said back waist region;

An absorbent body disposed between said outercover and said bodyside liner, said absorbent body defining a pair of longitudinally opposed absorbent end edges and a pair of laterally opposed absorbent side edges;

A first elastomeric suspension member disposed only in said front waist region and attached to said absorbent body in said front waist region; and

A second elastomeric suspension member attached to said absorbent body in said back waist region;

Wherein said first elastomeric suspension member is sandwiched between said outercover and said bodyside liner in said pair of side seams in said front waist region, and wherein said second elastomeric suspension member is sandwiched between said outercover and said bodyside liner in said pair of side seams in said back waist region.

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2. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said first suspension member defines a first suspension member width in said lateral direction that is substantially equal to an article width in said front waist region and said second suspension member defines a second suspension member width in said lateral direction that is substantially equal to an article width in said back waist region.
3. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said first suspension member is sandwiched between said outercover and said bodyside liner in said front waist seam.
4. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said second suspension member is sandwiched between said outercover and said bodyside liner in said back waist seam.
5. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein each of said suspension members is biaxially stretchable.
6. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein each of said suspension members may be elongated in at least one direction at least 30%.
7. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein each of said suspension member may be elongated in at least one direction at least 50%.
8. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of each of said suspension members is in alignment with at least 5% of said absorbent body in the longitudinal direction.
9. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said absorbent body is extensible.
10. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said absorbent body is elastomeric.

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11. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said absorbent side edges are non-parallel and said absorbent body includes a pair of lateral extensions in said front waist region and a pair of lateral extensions in said back waist region.

12. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said outercover is elastomeric.

13. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said outercover may be elongated at least 50%.

14. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said bodyside liner is elastomeric.

15. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said bodyside liner may be elongated at least 50%.

16. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said absorbent body is configured to float between said outercover and said bodyside liner.

17. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said absorbent body is disposed toward said inner surface relative to said first and second suspension members.

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18. (currently amended) A disposable absorbent article defining a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that extends between and connects said front and back waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, said article comprising:

A stretchable absorbent assembly defining a pair of longitudinally opposed end margins and a pair of laterally opposed side margins, said stretchable absorbent assembly comprising:

i) A stretchable outercover;

ii) A stretchable bodyside liner joined to the stretchable outercover in a superposed relation to form a pair of absorbent assembly side seams and a pair of absorbent assembly end seams;

iii) A first elastomeric suspension member disposed only in said front waist region and attached to said absorbent assembly in said front waist region;

iv) A second elastomeric suspension member attached to said absorbent assembly in said back waist region; and

v) An absorbent body disposed between said outercover and said bodyside liner;

Wherein said absorbent body is joined to said first elastomeric suspension member and said second elastomeric suspension member, and wherein said absorbent body is configured to float between said outercover and said bodyside liner.

19. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18 wherein each of said suspension members is biaxially stretchable.

20. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18 wherein each of said suspension member may be elongated in at least one direction at least 50%.

21. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18 wherein said absorbent body is elastomeric.

22. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18 wherein said outercover is elastomeric.

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23. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18 wherein said outercover may be elongated at least 50%.

24. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18 wherein said bodyside liner is elastomeric.

25. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18 wherein said bodyside liner may be elongated at least 50%.

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26. (currently amended) A disposable absorbent article defining a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that extends between and connects said front and back waist regions, a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, and a pair of longitudinally opposed end margins and a pair of laterally opposed side margins, said article comprising:

A stretchable outercover;

A stretchable bodyside liner joined to the stretchable outercover in a superposed relation wherein said outercover and said bodyside liner are joined along at least a portion of said end margins in said front waist region and said back waist region to provide a front waist seam and a back waist seam and wherein said outercover and said bodyside liner are joined along at least a portion of said side margins in said front waist region and said back waist region to provide a pair of side seams in said front waist region and said back waist region;

An absorbent body disposed between said outercover and said bodyside liner, said absorbent body defining a pair of longitudinally opposed absorbent end edges and a pair of laterally opposed absorbent side edges;

At least one elastomeric suspension member attached to each of said absorbent side edges in said front waist region, wherein said at least one elastomeric suspension member is disposed only in said front waist region and is sandwiched between said outercover and said bodyside liner in said front waist seam; and

At least one elastomeric suspension member attached to each of said absorbent side edges in said rear waist region, wherein said at least one elastomeric suspension member is sandwiched between said outercover and said bodyside liner in said back waist seam.

27. (original) The absorbent article of claim 26 wherein said absorbent body is configured to float between said outercover and said bodyside liner.

28. (original) The absorbent article of claim 26 wherein each of said suspension members are biaxially stretchable.

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29. (original) The absorbent article of claim 26 wherein each of said suspension members may be elongated in at least one direction at least 50%.

30. (original) The absorbent article of claim 26 wherein said absorbent body is elastomeric.

31. (original) The absorbent article of claim 26 wherein said outercover may be elongated at least 50%.

32. (original) The absorbent article of claim 26 wherein said bodyside liner is elastomeric.

33. (original) The absorbent article of claim 26 wherein said bodyside liner may be elongated at least 50%.